

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01014 142053Z

70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 FRB-03 OMB-01

TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-03 OPIC-03

XMB-02 /132 W

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P R 141910Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 730

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, ETRD, SG

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES: FIRST WEEK

REF (A) GENEVA 879; (B) GENEVA 928

1. SUMMARY. PLENARY DISPOSED OF AGENDA ITEM 3,4 AND 8 ON
FEBRUARY 11 AND 12 AND OF AGENDA ITEMS 5 AND 6 ON THE INTEGRATED
PROGRAM (IP) AND INDEXATION FEB 12-14. DEBATE WAS DESULTORY WITH
LDC'S INDICATING FRUSTRATION WITH SLOW PROGRESS IN OBTAINING
ACTION ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE NOW BECOME URGENT
BUT EXPRESSING ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR EITHER IP OR
DAKAR ACTION PROGRAM USDEL PRESENTED BASIC US POSITION,
PLEDGING CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EXAMINATION OF IP
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01014 142053Z

BUT URGING CAUTION AND FURTHER WORK IN OTHER INTERGOVERN-

MENTAL GROUPS. EC STATEMENT AGNERED SOME OTHER GROUP B DELEGATES WHO PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO USDEL THAT, AT LEAST IN APPEARANCE, IT WENT BEYOND AGREED GROUP B POSITION. OTHER GROUP B STATEMENTS MORE OR LESS PARALLELED US POSITION, WITH CANADA AND AUSTRALIA TAKING SURPRINSINGLY TOUGH LINE. END SUMMARY

2. LDC INTERNENTIONS WER SPLIT BETWEEN GENERAL STATEMENTS OF DISMAY WITH SLOW PROGRESS ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND SEPCIFIC GRIPEs (BOLIVIA AND KOREA ON TUNGSTEN, ECUADOR ON BANANAS, AND SRI LANKA WITH RESPECT TO TEA). LDC'S STATEMENTS IN GENERAL ENDORSED WITHOUT GREAT ENTHUSIASM IP. ON THE OTHER HAND THE LACK OF WARM ENDORSEMENT OF DAKAR ACTION PROGRAM WAS ALSO STRIKING. INFORMAL CONTACTS INDICATED THAT GROUP OF 77 SPLIT BETWEEN MODERATES AND THOSE SUPPORTING ALGERIAN LINE. RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS REPORTEDLY CONSIDER IP TOO AMBITIOUS AND TOO CUMBERSOME AND WOULD MUCH PREFER TO PUSH FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES OF INTEREST TO THEM.

3. USDEL MADE STATEMENT FEBRUARY 11 PRESENTING BASIC US POSITION, WHICH PLEDGED CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EXAMINATION OF IP PROPOSALS BUT ARGUED FIRM DECISIONS ON UNCTAD PLAN FOR PRICE STABILIZATION ARRANGEMENTS COULD ONLY BE ARRIVED AT BY THE KIND OF FURTHER WORK OUTLINED IN SECRETARIAT'S OWN STUDY. USDEL SUGGESTED THAT LOGICAL PLACE FOR MUCH OF THIS WORK WOULD BE IN EXISTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY GROUPS. STATEMENT NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT CONSIDERATION OF COMMON FUND PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DEFERRED PENDING CONCLUSIONS REACHED ON POSSIBLE SCOPE OF IP. TRADE ACT AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING GSP, AND OPENING OF MTN, TOUCHED UPON AS WAYS OF MEETING LDC INTEREST IN GREATER MARKET ACCESS FOR COMMODITIES AND MORE PROCESSED GOODS. USG CONVICTION THAT INDEXATION NON-USEFUL MECHANISM TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT GOALS WAS CLEARLY STATED.

4. OTHER GROUP B DELS, WITH EXCEPTION OF EC (REF B)), ECHOED US POSITIONS ON IP AND INDEXATION, WITH MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01014 142053Z

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR COMMODITY-BY-COMMODITY APPROACH AND SKEPTICISM ON IP, AND DEFENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS. CANADA AND AUSTRALIA NOTED DEPENDENCE OF THEIR COUNTRIES ON COMMODITY EXPORTS BUT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS EXIST AND DIFFICULTY OF NEGOTIATING SINGLE AGREEMENTS DO NOT BODE WELL FOR TRYING MANY AT SAME TIME. THESE TWO COUNTRIES URGED AS OBJECTIVE STABILITY OF PRICES AT

LEVELS REFLECTING MUTUAL INTERESTS OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. UK STATEMENT REFERRED TO WILSON'S LEEDS SPEECH BUT WAS SUPRISINGLY CAUTIOUS WITH RESEPCT TO FUTURE WORK ON COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS.

5. CONTACT GROUP SCHEDULED TO MEET FEBRUARY 17. GROUP B DRAFTING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP TO PREPARE COUNTERDRAFT ON IP. DRAFT WOULD PRESUBABLY INCLUDING SOMETHINGALONG LINES OF PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN EC STATEMENT (REF (B)) AND WOULD DEAL WITH FURTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORK ON IP AND TIMETABLE FOR SUCH WORK.

6. INDEXATION ISSUE SUFFERED NEGLECT. GROUP B DECIDED TO REMAIN SILENT (USDEL HAVING REGISTERED STRONG DISTASTE IN ITS OPENING STATEMENT COVERING AGENDA ITEMS 3 THROUGH 6). ONLY THREE OTHER COUNTRIES SPOKE ON THIS QUESTION, JAMAICA MERELY REFERRING TO BAUXITE/ALUMINUM LINK, ROMANIA SUPPORTING THEORY AND INDIA GIVING WEAK ENDORSEMENT.

7. INFORMAL CONTACTS INDICATE THAT G-77 INTEND TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTIONS EARLY FEBRUARY 17 ON INTEGRATED PROGRAM, A TUNGSTEN STABLIZATION AGREEMENT, INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS, PERHAPS ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MANGANESE AND ALLEGED US THREATS AGAINST OPEC COUNTRIES (TRADE ACT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW).DALE

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